



## NEWS RELEASE

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## Woman Charged with Fatal Stabbing, Other Crimes

A 28-year-old woman accused of stabbing another woman to death and then breaking into a store pleaded not guilty today, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Vanessa Celaya (dob 11/14/85) of Rubidoux is charged with three felony counts: murder, first-degree residential robbery and first-degree burglary, person present in case VA136733.

The felony complaint includes a special allegation that Celaya personally used a deadly and dangerous weapon, a knife, in the commission of the crime.

The defendant appeared before Judge Richard M. Goul at the Los Angeles County Superior Court in Bellflower. Her bail was set at \$1.14 million.

Prosecutors said on Sept. 5, about 11 p.m., Celaya walked up to victim Michelle Young and the two women had a verbal exchange. At some point, the defendant allegedly stabbed Young several times. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene.

Following the assault, Celaya reportedly broke into a tire shop and threatened a security guard inside. The defendant demanded clothing, grabbed a bag and then left the store, prosecutors said.

Authorities were called and law enforcement apprehended Celaya near the store.

Celaya's next court appearance is scheduled for Sept. 23 for a preliminary hearing setting at the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Norwalk Branch.

If convicted as charged, the defendant faces a maximum sentence of life in state prison.

The case is being investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

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**About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.